

Redington Wind Farm
Redington Pond Range, Maine

Section 10: Buffers

**Prepared by
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1.0 Introduction

Buffers will be used to protect certain natural features within the Redington Wind Farm project area. Natural features afforded protection through the use of buffers include streams, wetlands, and significant wildlife habitat.

2.0 Roads

Road construction details are provided in Section 1 of the application. To the extent practicable, road improvement and construction plans have avoided wetlands and streams and minimized impacts to those resources. However, activities involving maintenance and construction of roads near wetlands and streams will be in accordance with LURC Standards (LURC Chapter 10.27,D).

3.0 Transmission Lines

Transmission line construction details are provided in Section 1 of the application. To the extent practicable, the transmission line design has avoided wetlands or minimized impacts to wetlands. Impacts to wetlands from transmission line construction activities will include clearing of the tree canopy and maintenance of vegetation height to less than approximately 15 feet.

Where wetland and stream crossings could not be avoided, additional protection measures will be afforded in the form of buffer strips of higher vegetation. At stream crossings, a buffer strip will be maintained according to LURC Standards (LURC Chapter 10.27,B,2,b).

In all areas where clearing will be required over streams or wetlands vegetation management within the designated buffers will be in accordance with LURC Standards

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(LURC Chapter 10.27,B [i.e., “cleared vegetation will be replaced with vegetation (except where the area cleared is built upon) that is effective in preventing erosion and retaining natural beauty”]).

4.0 Wildlife Habitat

A buffer is proposed around three small wetlands on the ridgeline of Redington Mountain. A northern bog lemming was trapped in one of these wetlands in 1993 (see Section 7 of the application). Considering the adjacency of the other two wetlands, it has been assumed that all three habitats provide potential habitat for this species and that the surrounding upland habitat provides additional cover and dispersal habitat between the wetlands. Consequently, a 250-foot buffer was established around these wetlands (Figure10-1).

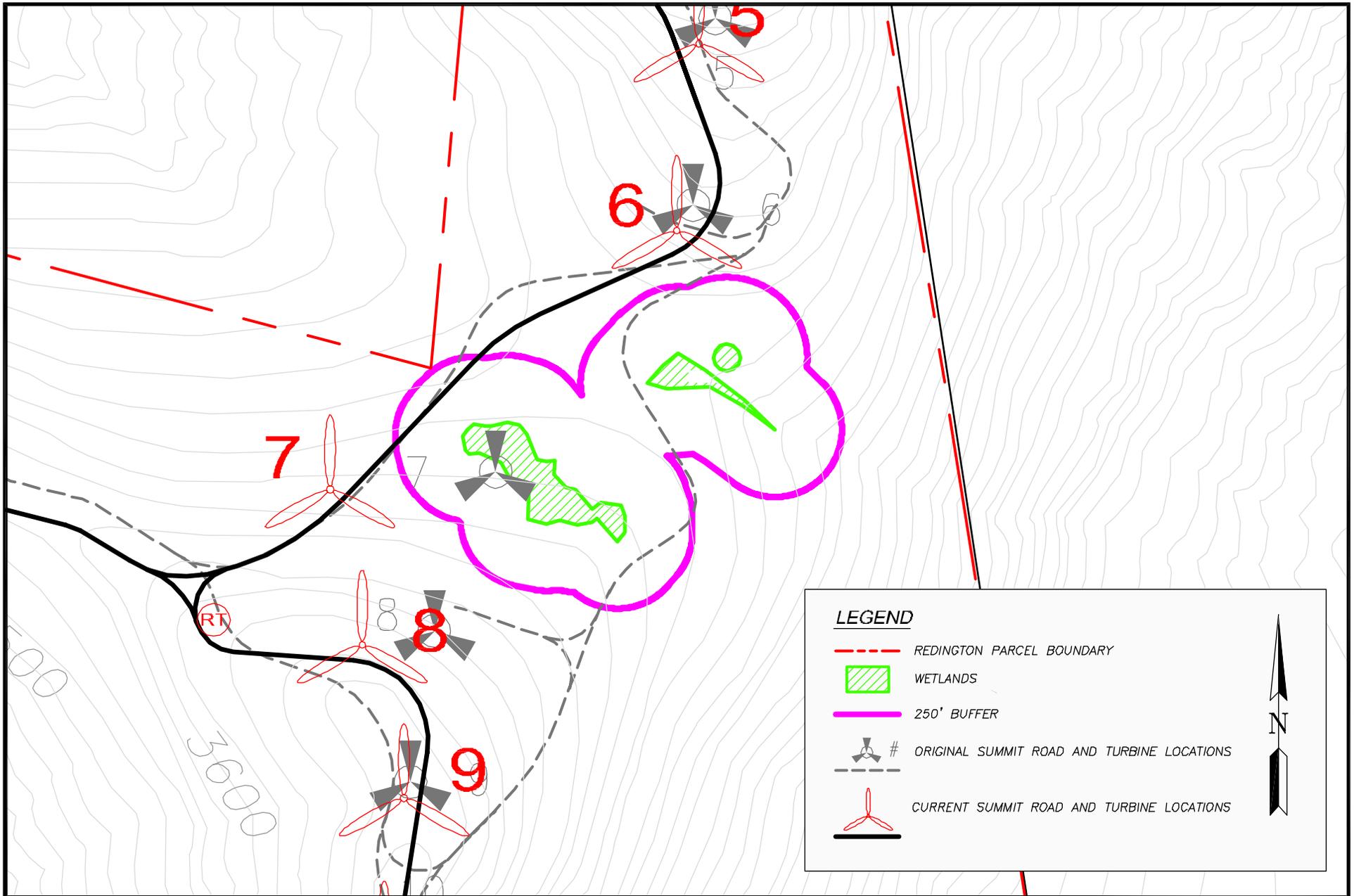
Project design has limited, to the extent practicable, impacts to northern bog lemmings and their habitat on Redington Mountain. Initially, any project feature originally planned within these three wetlands was moved out of the wetlands. Once the 250-foot buffer was established, an initial impact assessment was conducted. That assessment documented one turbine (turbine 7) and over 1,000 feet of ridgetop access road within the buffer area. That turbine has subsequently been moved out of the buffer area.

Additionally, the ridgetop road was originally planned to pass between two of the wetlands and through the middle of the buffer area. It has also been subsequently re-aligned. The road design now includes 400 feet of roadway located along the western edge of the buffer area (see Figure 10-1). This impact has been deemed unavoidable, as no other locations for the roadway exist within the project lease area that would not require significant cut-and-fill slopes on steep topography.

Beyond road construction, no activities associated with the construction or operation of the Redington Wind Farm will occur within the bog lemming buffer area. Additionally, a

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management and monitoring plan will be developed in cooperation with state natural resource agencies during the final development phase of project design. That management and monitoring plan will include guidelines for construction and a road shoulder re-vegetation and maintenance plan, and it will also outline a habitat monitoring plan to be implemented over the course of the project license. The objective of the habitat monitoring plan will be to avoid and minimize potential direct and indirect impacts to the bog lemming habitat by maintaining viable wooded buffers around the mapped habitat and by controlling the establishment of non-native grass and herbaceous species that could facilitate the local introduction of competing or predatory small mammal species.



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DESIGN:	DATE: August 2005
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CHECKED:	SCALE: 1"=500'
FILE NAME: RED-lemming.dwg	

DRAWING NAME:	<i>Northern Bog Lemming Habitat And 250' Buffer</i>
PROJECT:	

FIGURE NO.
10-1